

CHAPTER III

THE STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE

TOOLS, ARTS, LANGUAGE, MONEY

Processes and artifacts of the food supply. — Fishing. — Methods of fish-
ing. — The mystic element. — Religion and industry. — Artifacts and freaks
of nature. — Forms of stone axes. — How stone implements axe made. —
How arrowheads are made. — How stone axes are used. — Acculturation
or parallelism. — Fire-making tools. — Psychophysical traits of primitive
man. — Language. — Language and magic. — Language is a case of folk-
ways. — Primitive dialects. — Taking up and dropping language. — Pigeon
dialects. — How languages grow. — Money. — Intergroup and intragroup
money. — Predominant wares. — Intragroup money from property; inter-
group money from trade. — Shell and bead money. — Token money. —
Selection of a predominant ware. — Stone money in Melanesia. — Pluto-
cratic effects of money. — Money on the northwest coast of North America.
— Wampumpeag and roanoke. — Ring money. Use of metal. — The evolu-
tion of money. — The ethical functions of money.

122. Processes and artifacts of the food supply. The processes and the artifacts which are connected with food supply offer us the purest and simplest illustrations of the development of folkways. They are not free from the admixture of superstition and vanity, but the element of expediency predominates in them. It is reported of the natives of New South Wales that a man will lie on a rock with a piece of fish in his hand, feigning sleep. A hawk or crow darts at the fish, but is caught by the man. It is also reported of Australians that a man swims under water, breathing through a reed, approaches ducks, pulls one under water by the legs, wrings its neck, and so secures a number of them.¹ If these stories can be accepted with confidence, they may well furnish us a starting point for a study of the art of catching animals. The man really has no tool, but must rely entirely on his own quickness and dexterity. Birdlime is a device

¹ Smyth, *Aborig. of Victoria*, I, 194, 197.